

DOTHEBOYS HALL.

A Visit to the Village Made Famous

by Dickens' Novel, "Nicholas Nickleby."

The Building Where Squeers Tortured the Young With Brimstone and Treacle.

Originals of a Romance That Performed a Great Good—The School for Sale.

From Temple Bar: A word of advice here to intending pilgrims. Do not allow to Charles Dickens or to Squeers' School, except in the presence of those whom you know to be above common prejudices and animosities. These subjects may be said, to use an expression more forcible than elegant, to stink in the nostrils of your true Bowes man. He believes that the village owes its decay entirely to the abolition of Yorkshire schools in general, and of Dotheboys hall in particular. He points to the fact that whereas half a century ago Bowes had close upon two thousand inhabitants, it has now short of four hundred. He has never read "Nicholas Nickleby," nor would he if a copy could be found in the place. If you question him about the school, he will either tell you flatly that he knows nothing about it, or will evasively refer you to other places infamous from their schools. If you mention the name of Dickens he will flush up and raise with him the story that the great novelist, upon the occasion of a subsequent visit to Bowes, was jumped on and thrashed by infuriated individuals. Of course, all Bowes folk do not share these prejudices, as we shall afterwards see; but the broad fact remains that Bowes, which was ruined in common with many hundreds of country places standing on our great roads elsewhere by the withdrawal of the stage coaches, must be humored if the pilgrim wishes to reap any profit from his exploration.

We pass by a grand old inn, once known as the George, now called the Unicorn, where eight coaches changed horses daily on their road between London and Scotland—a typical inn of the old sort, with labyrinthine rooms, a huge kitchen, a large courtyard, and acres of outbuildings—and, with the little Norman church and the grim keep of the old Norman castle on our left, push on to Dotheboys Hall, which is the last house in the village.

A long, cold-looking house, one story high, with a few straggling outbuildings behind, and a barn and stable adjoining. So we read. The house itself is rather dark, save that it is now decidedly the pleasantest and most cheerful-looking dwelling in the village, with its creeper-embowered windows looking out to a trim and well-kept garden. The stable and barn, too, remain; but the outbuildings, in which was comprised the school-house, proper—scene of the merciless thrashings, the starvation, the breaking of young hearts, the wrecking of young lives, the revolting misery and the bloodstained barbarity—they have long disappeared.

A woman's face looks out from a lower window and we are told to turn in at the front gate, but our guide stops, saying: "Not that way! No admittance there! You would be asked if you wanted to buy the house, and have the door slammed in your face."

So we followed the path and turned in through the back door. This leads into a yard, where still stands the identical pump which, it may be remembered, Mr. Squeers discovered to be frozen on the morning after the long coach ride from London.

From here we enter the kitchen—cautiously and silently, for the servant tells us that if her master discovered us we should assuredly be turned out with ignominy. There is nothing remarkable in the kitchen—a large, low, heavily raftered apartment; nor in the little room leading from it, which was the schoolmaster's study, but we linger a long while, we gaze at the marks on the wall by the modern-cooking range, where stood the coppers wherein were boiled the potatoes which formed a principal part of the diet of the "young noblemen's" food, and as we peer through the study window, which the boys were set to clean and wash, we see the garden, whither they were dispatched to lard and rake on the attainment of the word "bottling." We ask if a great number of people do not come here bound upon the same errand as ourselves. The reply is that a great number come; but that as they go to the front door they do not get in at all, but have to content themselves with an exterior view of Dotheboys Hall, so that we may deem ourselves lucky to have seen even the little we have.

So much for the Dotheboys Hall itself. Still more interesting is the information we managed to pick up from various sources concerning Squeers and his school. All our informants—country clergymen, intelligent residents, "oldest inhabitants," and such natives as do not feel themselves in honor bound to keep their mouths shut—agreed on one point: that the system of Yorkshire schools was monstrous and unjust to an incredible extent; that the thrashings and cruelties were practiced upon the boys—who were chiefly the illegitimate offsprings of London parents—but that the school typified by Charles Dickens was the only one to which the system of Dotheboys hall was not applied. There were two other schools at Bowes, one at Gilmonby, one at Cottingham; and the proprietors of these, suspecting the presence of a famous literary Londoner among them, refused him admittance, but at Shaw's he was so warmly welcomed and shown over the premises.

But in other respects the evidence was so conflicting that we could not give it without pronouncing any opinion on its value or the reverse. For instance, one woman, a native of Bowes, whose sympathies one would have imagined to be with the maligned Squeers, told us that she distinctly remembered the boys coming in summer time to her father's field to help get in the hay, loaded to the work of horses by whisks armed with whips. On the other hand, a gentleman, whose father, being a schoolmaster, used to go up to the Squeers' Head with and on the same errand as Squeers, declared that the one-eyed schoolmaster was an estimable man, who cared for his pupils' property, and was generally respected and liked. He further stated that his father related to him how he happened to be at the Squeers' Head with Squeers after the Dotheboys Hall number of "Nicholas Nickleby" had taken the public by storm; that the crowd literally besieged the inn with the intention of lynching Squeers; that the commotion had such an effect upon the schoolmaster as to deprive him of reason, and that Mrs. Squeers died of a broken heart.

Another gentleman—once in holy orders—told us that he was at Bow Grammar School contemporaneously with the existence of Shaw's School; that Shaw was known as the "King of the Road," because every half year he hired a special coach to bring his pupils from London, and that the arrival of this coach at Bowes was the occasion of universal excitement and enthusiasm. He furthermore cited, as a proof that Shaw was maligned as to his treatment of his pupils, that great rivalry always existed between the Grammar School boys and those of Dotheboys Hall; that they played tremendous football matches together, and that every Easter Sunday it was customary to appear in new suits and to pelt each other with Easter eggs. A fourth informant told us that the deaths at Shaw's school were frequent, that a large proportion of the boys were maimed by ill-usage, and that the neighboring cottagers were continually giving shelter to runaways. A fifth spoke of the prototype of Fanny Squeers as a woman universally beloved and respected,

who did infinite good among the poor and sick of the parish. All, however, spoke of Shaw as a man subject to fits of violent passion, and admitted that he was addicted to using the cane unmercifully when under these influences.

In other instances, when we ventured to propound questions to more illiterate folk, we found that without committing themselves to giving any definite opinion they tried to evade the questions, and thereby tacitly admitted that there was a great deal more truth in what Dickens had written than their local patriotism allowed them to express.

The graves of "Squeers," his wife, of "Fanny Squeers" and of young "Wackford," who died at the age of twenty-four, are to be seen in Bowes churchyard. The late assistant station-master at Barnet, a native of Bowes, was said to be a son of the original of Nicholas Nickleby. John Browdie was one John Todd, of Birmingham, and died not very long ago, and the original of poor Smike is said to have died during the year of 1885, aged seventy-four.

When we add that the "original" bowl and ladle with which Mrs. Squeers used to dispense brimstone and treacle to the boys were sold a short time back for £10, and that many of Squeers' old pupils have done very well in life, and frequently come to revisit the old house at Bowes, we exhaust the information we were able to collect concerning Mr. Squeers and Dotheboys Hall.

The largest line of crockery, China ware and lamps are to be seen at the Bee Hive and the prices the very lowest.

Poisoned by Egg-nog.

Philadelphia special: An egg-nog party was given by Mr. and Mrs. Swift, at their home, 2049 Wilder street, on Easter Sunday. Mrs. Swift died Thursday night, and her physician, Dr. George Devine, notified the coroner that her death was probably due to bad eggs used in making egg-nog, which was drunk by those at the party. Eight other people who partook of it were made violently ill and are still confined to their beds.

Last Sunday Mrs. Swift made a large bowl of egg-nog, using four gallons of milk, three pints of whiskey, one-half pint of brandy and one dozen eggs. When this was all mixed there were nearly five gallons of the beverage. The drinking kept up till a late hour, when all left for their homes. Late on Sunday night Mrs. Swift was taken ill. It was not long after when her husband was compelled to call for a doctor. The doctor, who was also a chemist, found that the mixture was also a k-n-sick at this juncture. Mr. Swift and the others, it is thought, will recover. The physician refuses to make any other statement on the question further than that the people were poisoned by bad eggs.

CHANGE OF TIME.

Through Chair Cars to Kansas City.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railway, "Albert Lea Route," ever ready to meet the demands of the traveling public, upon March 17th, 1889, inaugurated a through chair car service between St. Paul, Minneapolis and Kansas City, leaving St. Paul daily, except Sunday, at 8:30 a. m., Minneapolis at 9:50 a. m.

These cars are models of perfection and in many respects are superior to those run by any road. The interior is finished in selected and exquisitely polished woods of mahogany, cherry and oak. The curtains, carpets, etc., in harmony of design and color form an ensemble pleasing to the eye and gratifying to a cultivated taste.

No pains or expense have been spared to make them the most comfortable and assured vehicles of their class in America.

For maps, rates, time cards, etc., address nearest R. R. agent, or write to S. F. BOYD, G. T. & P. A., Minneapolis.

C. L. CAMPFIELD, Gen. Agt., Helena.

San Francisco and Los Angeles Excursion Rates.

On January 15th and the same date each month thereafter, the Union Pacific railway company will sell excursion tickets to San Francisco at the following rates from Helena. Going and returning via Ogden, \$75; going via Ogden and returning via Portland (either by rail or steamer between San Francisco and Portland) or vice versa, \$80. Los Angeles and return, going via Ogden and returning same, \$85. Tickets to the above points include side trips, Ogden to Salt Lake City and return, and all the above tickets are good sixty days going, extreme limit six months from date of sale and allow stop-over privileges in both directions within the limit. Through man cards from Helena and Pocatello via the Montana Central and Butte, leaving Helena daily at 7:30 a. m.

A. E. VEAZIE, Trav. Pass. Agt., 28 N. Main st.

To Dislodge the Enemy.

When it takes the form of disease of the kidneys or bladder, is a task well nigh impossible of accomplishment. Renal and vesical maladies are more obstinate than any others. Counteract, therefore, the earliest indications of inactivity of the many organs with Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which possesses among other excellent qualities those of an efficient diuretic. The degree of stimulation apparent from its use reaches, but never goes beyond, the bounds of safety. Bright's disease, diabetes, catarrh of the bladder, are diseases successfully combated in their incipency with this benign medical stimulant and tonic. Besides reinforcing and regulating the kidneys and bladder, the bitters is a specific for fever and ague, constipation and dyspepsia.

Electric Bitters.

This remedy is becoming so well known and so popular as to need no special mention. All who have used Electric Bitters singing the same song of praise. A pure medicine does not exist and it is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of Liver and Kidneys, will remove Pimples, Boils, Salt Rheum and other affections caused by impure blood. Will drive Malaria from the system and prevent as well as cure all Malarial fevers. For cure of Headache, Constipation and Indigestion try Electric Bitters. Entire satisfaction guaranteed, or money refunded.—Price 50 cts. and \$1 per bottle at Hale & Co.'s drug store.

The Clear-Headedness of Youth.

While the merits of the various blood purifiers are being shown up to the best advantage possible by their several manufacturers, we would suggest to persons feeling the need of such a medicine, that they try a dose of St. Patrick's Pills, and assure them that they will not only be satisfied, but delighted with the result. Those who wish to feel the animation, buoyancy and clear-headedness of youth should take St. Patrick's Pills. For sale by H. M. Patches & Co.

An expression of Delight.

"About a week ago," says a Los Angeles, Cal., druggist, "a Chinaman came in with a lame shoulder. I sold him a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and guaranteed that it would cure him. He came in again last night, and as soon as he got inside the door began to swing his arms over his head like an Indian club swinger. I thought the balm had a fit, but he finally stopped long enough to say: 'Medicine, velly fine, velly fine; all same make me feel plenty good.' Chamberlain's Pain Balm is without an equal for sprains, rheumatism, aches, pains or lame back. For sale by H. M. Patches & Co."

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"For a rash, from which I had suffered some months, my father, an M. D., recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla. It effected a cure. I am still taking this medicine, as I find it to be a most powerful blood-purifier."—J. E. Cocky, Denton, Texas.

"C. H. Hut, Druggist, Evansville, Ind., writes: 'I have been selling Ayer's Sarsaparilla for many years. It maintains its popularity, while many other preparations, formerly as well known, have long been forgotten.'"

"I have always recommended Ayer's Sarsaparilla as superior to any other preparation for purifying the blood."—G. B. Kaykendall, M. D., Pomeroy, W. T.

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Following is the time of arrival and departure of trains from Helena on the new schedule, taking effect April 17th, 1889:

TRAINS ARRIVE AT HELENA.

No. 4—St. Paul Atlantic Ex. from Butte and south, 11:30 a. m.

No. 2—Montana Pacific Ex. from St. Paul and east, 4:55 p. m.

No. 2—Helena and Butte Ex. from Butte and south, 6:20 p. m.

No. 5—Marysville Express, 10 a. m.

No. 9—Marysville Ex. 6:35 p. m.

TRAINS DEPART FROM HELENA.

No. 4—St. Paul Atlantic Ex. for St. Paul and east, 11:30 a. m.

No. 2—Montana Pacific Ex. for Butte and south, 5:05 p. m.

No. 1—Helena and Butte Ex. for Butte and south, 8:25 a. m.

No. 6—Marysville Express, 3:30 p. m.

No. 10—Marysville Ex. 9:15 a. m.

Trains Nos. 3 and 4 connect at Butte with Union Pacific.

For further information call on or address any agent of the company, or

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